

Message

From: Citizen Name / Ex. 6
Sent: 2/1/2018 11:15:15 PM
To: Kaplan, Robert [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=165b99dc02954540911797ba748d7566-RKaplan]
Subject: Please Defend the Menominee River from harmful sulfide mining

Dear Acting Regional Administrator,

I believe you should REJECT the pending wetland impact permit submitted by Canadian-owned Aquila Resources Inc. that would create the Back Forty Project in Menominee County, Michigan. The proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine located adjacent to the Menominee River would be high-risk for some precious natural resources. There would be an imminent threat of sulfuric acid leaching harmful heavy metals including copper, cadmium, arsenic, lead and mercury, and creating acid mine drainage. Groundwater, rivers, and ultimately Lake Michigan would become contaminated if acid mine drainage were to seep into surface and groundwater.

The Menominee River and its tributaries provide habitat for walleye, pike, trout and lake sturgeon. The small mouth bass fishery is regarded as one of the best in North America. The Menominee provides jobs and economic benefits to nearby rural communities in both Michigan and Wisconsin.

The river is particularly important to the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, who revere the river as integral to their creation. Sacred burial mounds are within the footprint of the proposed mine site.

I stand with eight Native American Tribes, the Superior Watershed Partnership, American Rivers, numerous local and regional conservation and community organizations, as well as the thousands of concerned residents that oppose the proposed mine. Please consider my request to deny Aquila's pending wetland permit application (Parts 303, 301, 31), and prevent the creation of the Back Forty mine.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

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